

X-Rays On Termites

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It is often as important to record experiments which yield negative results as to report those which are successful. For this reason, I report briefly some tests made to ascertain the effect of X-rays on termites. As a means of killing termites in houses and furniture the X-ray, if effective, would be nearly ideal because of the ease of application. That it does not appear to be effective, however, is the conclusion presented herein.

Two tests were made of this recently, one at the physics laboratory of the local university with a machine of comparatively low power and the other at a private laboratory in Honolulu with a machine of much greater power. The maximum used was 30 kilovolts.

Procedure: A number of termites (*Kaloterms immigrans* Snyder) were placed in small pill boxes and subjected to various strengths of X-rays for varying periods of time, from 5 to 30 minutes. After this treatment they were kept under observation to ascertain the effects. Immediately after treatment the termites appeared to be quite unaffected by the rays and for many days afterward there seemed to be no visible effects of the treatment. The termites were provided with a bit of wood for food and they continued to feed actively during all the period of observation.